

Prayon takes majority stake in THT

Engis, 10 September 2009

Prayon has acquired a majority shareholding in THT, a Walloon company specialising in the production of lactic ferments. This deal is part of the Prayon Group's growth strategy in markets with a high technological value, specifically nutrition.

THT - founded by Professor Thonart, Director of the Walloon Centre for Industrial Biology - has unique know-how in developing and producing lactic ferments for use mainly in human probiotics as well as in meat processing and baking.

The search for a strategic partner for THT was launched by Banque Degroof in early 2009 after Beldem, a division of the Puratos group, decided to sell the stake it had acquired in 2000 in connection with its research into lactic ferments and their applications in baking.

Since its founding in 1991, THT has experienced exponential growth, especially in food supplements. The synergies unleashed with the Prayon Group, a leader in the functional ingredients sector, will make it possible to pursue this dynamic growth by combining Prayon's global sales network with THT's technological and scientific skills.

About Prayon

Drawing on more than one hundred years of industrial experience, Belgium's based Prayon Group is today a world leader in phosphate chemicals, with 20 companies in more than 10 countries.

Prayon's joint core shareholders are Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP) and the Wallonia Regional Investment Company (SRIW).

Products

From its sites around the world, Prayon produces and sells a wide range of both phosphate products (phosphoric acids and derived salts) and fluorine products. Although virtually unknown to the general public, they are widely used as raw materials in the manufacture of finished products, such as foods (baked goods, meat, process cheese, fish and seafood, cereals, fruits and vegetables), drinks and pharmaceuticals (toothpaste, oral hygiene products). They are also used in various industrial applications.

Please visit www.prayon.com for more information.

About Beldem

Beldem, a division of Puratos nv/sa, is the bio-fermentation competence centre for the Puratos group, a family-owned Belgian multinational with sales of nearly €1 billion and some 5,000 employees. The group has a presence in 60 countries around the world and is active in the production and sale of ingredients and products for the bakery, patisserie and chocolate sectors.

Please visit www.puratos.com for more information.